

NSA review(s) completed.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

8 May 1980

MEMORANDUM

NSC COMMENTS ON IRAN

We appreciate receiving the NSC comments on our paper concerning Soviet policy toward the Iran-Iraq conflict. There is no question that this type of feed-back is useful. It enables us to see how our product is being received and interpreted and thus to follow up with pertinent information and analysis which will hopefully prove beneficial. [ ]

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It is certainly true that the memorandum does not deal with a broad range of developments concerning Iran or with broad Soviet policies designed to exploit Iran's instability. It was intended to focus on the Iran-Iraq dispute and on the Soviet attitude toward that dispute. While the NSC wrap-up of the paper's analysis is generally accurate, it does not mention the paper's final conclusion--that the Soviet posture could well change, and even involve military action, should the Iran-Iraq situation deteriorate further and should hostilities appear to be fostering a significant erosion of central authority leading to Iran's fragmentation. [ ]

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There is no question that the USSR has been attempting to exploit Iran's instability and to move that country into the Soviet orbit. This has been consistent Soviet policy

*This memorandum was prepared by [ ] Office of Political Analysis. Comments and queries are welcome and should be directed to the Chief, Soviet External Branch,*

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25X1 since the Iranian revolution began. Nor is there any question  
that [ ] the Soviets have been upgrading the  
status of their forces in the Transcaucasus, thus giving  
themselves the option of military intervention in Iran.

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However, the list of "recent developments" cited in the  
comments may be somewhat misleading when it comes to analyzing  
probable Soviet actions in Iran. Many of these "developments"  
are not recent and some are factually questionable.

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25X1 We are currently preparing a paper on Soviet policy  
toward Iran since the invasion of Afghanistan and we plan to  
address in some detail most of the points raised in the NSC  
comments. We would be very pleased to get together and  
discuss any of these topics at your convenience. [ ]

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